

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council December 18, 2014

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

Ordered, that

- Whereas, the City of Northampton has a vibrant downtown with unmatched entertainment, restaurant, and retail offerings; and
- Whereas, the City of Northampton is over quota for all-alcohol licenses established in section 17 of Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws; and
- Whereas, in September 2014 the Northampton License Commission solicited applications for an all-alcohol license that became available following a revocation and six existing Northampton restaurants applied; and
- Whereas, Healthy Karma, LLC d/b/a Hinge, RIAS BAIXAS LLC d/b/a Ibiza Tapas, Local Burger LLC d/b/a Local Burger, OBCT Inc., d/b/a Sierra Grille and Sylvester's Fine Foods Inc., d/b/a Sylvester's Restaurant were qualified but not selected in the final random lottery drawing for the license; and
- Whereas, the inability to serve all-alcohol beverages hinders these five existing restaurants from expanding offerings and bringing additional patrons and revenue to Northampton; and
- Whereas, earlier this year Governor Patrick proposed economic development legislation eliminating the Commonwealth's outdated liquor license quota system to give cities and towns local control over the process; and
- Whereas, this much-needed reform was included in a version of that bill adopted by the Senate, was not included in a House version, and was ultimately not part of the final economic development bill signed into law; and

Whereas, special legislation remains the only means for allowing the City of Northampton to issue over quota annual all-alcohol restaurant liquor licenses to strengthen and enhance the economic vitality of our downtown and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

That the Mayor is authorized and directed to seek special legislation as follows:

An Act authorizing the City of Northampton to issue five above quota annual all-alcohol restaurant licenses to the following businesses: Healthy Karma, LLC d/b/a Hinge, RIAS BAIXAS LLC d/b/a Ibiza Tapas, Local Burger LLC d/b/a Local Burger, OBCT Inc., d/b/a Sierra Grille and Sylvester's Fine Foods Inc., d/b/a Sylvester's Restaurant. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 1. Notwithstanding section 17 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, and in addition to any authorized by existing special legislation, the licensing authority of the City of Northampton may issue above quota annual all-alcohol restaurant licenses to Healthy Karma, LLC d/b/a Hinge, RIAS BAIXAS LLC d/b/a Ibiza Tapas, Local Burger LLC d/b/a Local Burger, OBCT Inc., d/b/a Sierra Grille and Sylvester's Fine Foods Inc., d/b/a Sylvester's Restaurant. The licenses authorized hereunder shall be subject to all of the provisions of said Chapter 138 except section 17. Upon revocation of any license authorized hereunder or upon the cessation of business of the licensee or failure of licensee to exercise the license for six (6) consecutive months the license shall, after hearing, revert to the City for re-issuance to another licensee.